

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01154 231651Z

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 COME-00 EB-11 INT-08 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 DOTE-00 PM-07 RSR-01 /079 W

----- 033607

R 222119Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514

INFO CCGDSEVEN MIAMI

COMDT COGARD WASHDC

NMFS ST PETERSBURG FLA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS BF

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH ACTING HEAD OF MARINE DIVISION OF  
BAHAMIAN POLICE FORCE

REF: NASSAU 1131

1. GEORGE AITKEN, ACTING HEAD OF THE MARINE DIVISION OF THE BAHAMIAN POLICE FORCE VISITED EMBASSY TO DISCUSS THE EVENT REPORTED IN REFTEL.
2. THE DISCUSSION ALSO GOT INTO THE QUESTION OF GCOB GENERAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT POLICY. MR. AITKEN STATED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE POLICY TOWARD POACHERS; IT WAS SIMPLY TO CONDUCT PATROLS OF THE MORE POPULAR FISHING AREAS AND ARREST VIOLATORS OF THE CFZ, HOPING THE ARRESTS WOULD DISCOURAGE POACHING.
3. MR. AITKEN APPEARED SOMEWHAT FRUSTRATED BY THE SIZE OF HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY BUT ADDED THAT WHEN THE GCOB DECLARED THE ARCHIPELAGO HIS JOB WOULD BE EASIER BECAUSE HE WOULD NOT HAVE ALL THE "HOLES" CREATED BY THE PRESENT TWELVE-

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PAGE 02 NASSAU 01154 231651Z

MILE CLAIM, TO WORRY ABOUT. IN VIEW OF HIS MEAGER RESOURCES,

MR. AITKEN STATED THAT HIS PRESENT EFFORTS WOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN THE AREAS OF HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF FISHING VESSELS: WALKER AND GRAND CAY AND THE AREA EASTWARD OF NORTH BIMINI AND GREAT ISAAC. (THE TWO POLICE BOATS THAT ARRESTED THE "WINONA" WERE DISPATCHED AUGUST 21 TO RETURN TO THE AREA WHERE "WINONA" WAS ARRESTED IN ORDER TO "DO SOMETHING" ABOUT ALL THE ILLEGAL TRAPS PLANTED WITHIN THE CFZ.) MR. AITKEN MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE OTHER GOOD FISHING AREAS THAT ATTRACTED NON-BAHAMIANS, BUT THEY WERE TOO FAR AWAY AND THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULD DO ABOUT IT WITH HIS PRESENT RESOURCES. HE FELT HE WOULD NEED ABOUT 12 BOATS TO DO HIS JOB ADEQUATELY.

4. WHEN ASKED WHAT GUIDANCE POLICE BOAT COMMANDERS HAVE AND TO WHAT EXTENT ARE POLICE BOATS ARMED, MR. AITKEN STATED "POLICE BOAT COMMANDERS HAVE ORDERS TO USE MINIMUM FORCE AT ALL TIMES. WEAPONS WILL BE USED ONLY IN RESPONSE TO WEAPONS. POLICE BOATS CARRY SUB-MACHINE GUNS, RIFLES AND SIDE ARMS." MR. AITKEN EMPHASIZED THESE WEAPONS WERE REGULARLY CARRIED IN ALL POLICE BOATS AND WERE NOT PLACED IN THE BOATS SPECIFICALLY FOR ANTI-POACHER OPERATIONS.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THIS INFORMATION, THE COAST GUARD MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING ITS SURVEILLANCE PATROLS IN THE WALKER CAY-BIMINI AREA, SINCE THIS WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR INCIDENTS. IT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL TO KNOW WHETHER, AS THE BAHAMIAN POLICE ALLEGE, THERE ARE LARGE NUMBER OF AMERICAN TRAPS WITHIN THE CFZ.

6. INCIDENTALLY, THE REPORT OF THE SIGHTING OF THE F/V WINONA IN THE BAHAMIAN CFZ ON JULY 30 CONTAINED IN THE USCGC DAUNTLESS' PATROL REPORT HAS BEEN USEFUL TO US IN EVALUATING THIS INCIDENT AND IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE VALUE OF THESE PATROLS IN THIS SITUATION.  
SPEAR

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION COA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** NASSAU 1131  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH ACTING HEAD OF MARINE DIVISION OF BAHAMIAN POLICE FORCE  
**TAGS:** EFIS, BF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005